



Federal Agency
for Foreign Affairs
Central Agency for Schools Abroad

ZfA
Deutsche Auslandsschularbeit
International

Tips for Founding a German School Abroad



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German Schools Abroad

136 German schools abroad (Deutsche Auslandsschulen, DAS) form a global network of outstanding educational institutions. The staff, funding, organisational matters and educational programmes of these schools are collectively managed – on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office – by the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA) of the Federal Agency for Foreign Affairs (BfAA), with the involvement of the Länder..



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More than 82,000 pupils are enrolled at German schools abroad, where they work towards internationally recognized degrees that give them access to a university education or an apprenticeship anywhere in the world. Thanks to the schools' close ties with Germany, graduates are optimally prepared to take up their studies and/or seek employment in Germany, also by comparison with other international applicants. Germany's reputation as a country with an excellent education system

helps graduates gain access to all international markets for higher learning and job training.

Most German schools abroad are privately run. They further Germany's cultural relations and education policy objectives, including..

- Maintaining an intercultural focus, bringing together pupils from an international background with those from the host country
- Promoting the German language and multilingualism
- Competence-based learning with an international focus
- Providing individual assistance and support
- Maintaining world-class quality standards
- Providing schooling to children of German nationals abroad
- Projecting a positive image of Germany abroad and promoting close ties with Germany
- Liaising with German universities and research institutions
- Instilling in pupils an open-minded world view and an appreciation of democracy



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Drawing up a checklist – the first step

You would like to open a German school?

You are looking to establish a German school abroad, or to have your school accredited? The Central Agency for Schools Abroad is your competent point of contact. It stands ready to assist you, both with building up the high-quality school structures that are needed and as you introduce internationally recognised school-leaving certificates that meet the German requirements.



The following checklist gives you an overview of the initial aspects you must bear in mind as you go about setting up a German school abroad.

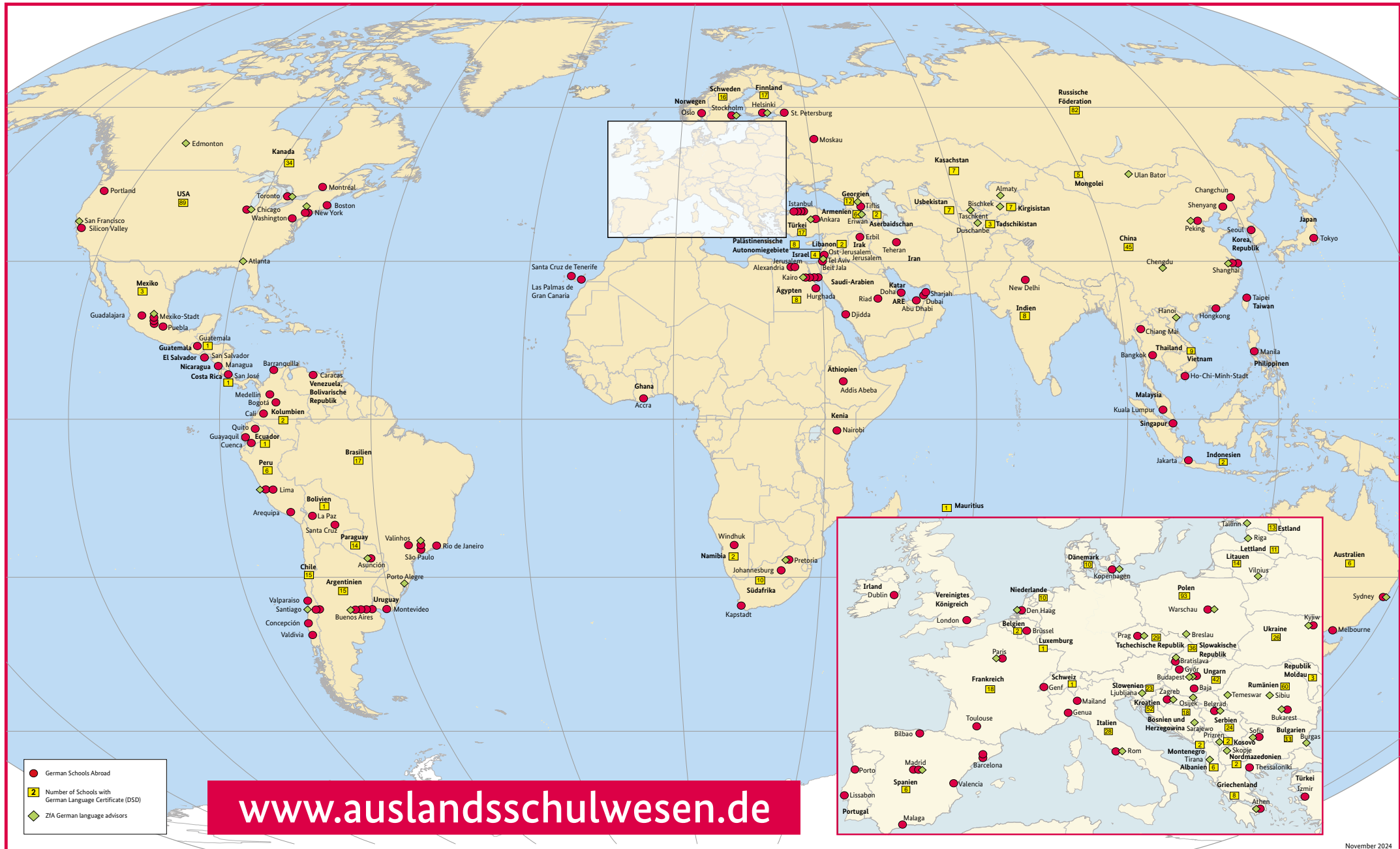
Responsibility for owning and operating the school

- ✓ Ensuring conformity with national legal requirements
- ✓ Non profit legal status
- ✓ National recognition, accreditation or licensing
- ✓ A sound governance concept

The school's concept and educational objectives

- ✓ School philosophy (mission statement)
- ✓ School objectives
 - To act as a place of encounter
 - Multilingual strand with a national focus
 - Multilingual strand with an international focus
 - Multilingual strand with a German focus t
- ✓ School leaving certificates
 - German International Abitur
 - German Language Certificate
 - International Baccalaureate with some courses taken in German
 - National school leaving certificates
 - International school leaving certificates
 - Vocational training degrees
 - German intermediate school leaving certificates
- ✓ Language concept

German Schools Abroad



Feasibility study and financial plan

- ✓ **Market analysis** of the local offering for an international education
- ✓ **Needs analysis, encompassing local and international families**



- ✓ **Reviewing the framework conditions**
 - Possibilities for employing qualified teachers
 - School law of the host country
 - Requirements set by the authorities
 - Insurance and liability issues

✓ **Securing the necessary funding**

- School fee regulations
- School association membership fees
- Parental debentures and/or bank loans
- Financial assistance and funding programmes of the host country
- Fundraising
- Financing plan for the first five years of the school's operation
- Collecting significant data

✓ **Marketing**

- Marketing concept
- Scholarship programmes
- School partnerships
- Alumni relations
- Public relations



What are the next steps?

✓ Staff concept

- Needs-based skills and staff profiles
- Analysis of the job market
- A structure for contracts and salaries
- Possibilities for recruiting German teachers
- Availability of, and funding for, teachers recruited from Germany
- Basic and further training scheme
- Personnel development strategy
- Managing hand-overs



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The status of “German school abroad” is conferred through an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany, via the Federal Foreign Office. The German Schools Abroad Act (ASchulG) serves as a basis for the establishment and funding of the school. To determine whether or not the Federal Republic of Germany has a major interest in the establishment of a German school abroad at your location, please contact your competent German mission. If this is the case, the standard accreditation procedure will be initiated, during which you will be advised by the Central Agency for Schools Abroad.

1. Submission of the application
2. A major interest is determined in establishment of a German school abroad
3. Initial assessment / first visit
4. Examination of all documents
5. Limited-duration school charter + funding contract
6. Analysis of the school as it is being established
7. Unlimited-duration school charter + funding contract

The Central Agency for Schools Abroad advises schools that are seeking accreditation, the aim being to help them develop structures that conform to both the German Schools Abroad Act and national requirements.



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You still have questions?

Please contact us!

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Diplomatic mission of the Federal Republic
of Germany (embassy or consulate general
on location)

National Ministry of Education or the
relevant national authority